

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be entered, at least because they place the application in condition for allowance by canceling the only claim that remains rejected.

Claim 8 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. This amendment deletes a claim in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-7 are now pending in this application.

Allowable subject matter

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 1-7 are allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,563,973 to Caracci (“Caracci”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,278,327 to McMahon (“McMahon”). This rejection is moot in light of the cancellation of claim 8.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date September 28, 2005

By Thomas G. Bilodeau

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Telephone: (202) 672-5485
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

William T. Ellis
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 26,874

Thomas G. Bilodeau
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 43,438